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**Cc:** Dunbar, Bill[dunbar.bill@epa.gov]  
**From:** McLerran, Dennis  
**Sent:** Thur 3/24/2016 6:03:51 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Capital Press article

Matt:

Below is a link to a Capital Press article on the grant to the NW Indian Fisheries Commission that resulted in a sub award to the Swinomish Tribe for a public education program. We can discuss further as needed.

Dennis

**From:** Dunbar, Bill  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 10:53 AM  
**To:** Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; Murchie, Peter <Murchie.Peter@epa.gov>; Chang, Lisa <Chang.Lisa@epa.gov>; Castanon, Lisa <Castanon.Lisa@epa.gov>; Wright, Garth <wright.garth@epa.gov>; Woods, Jim <Woods.Jim@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; MacIntyre, Mark <Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov>; Pirzadeh, Michelle <Pirzadeh.Michelle@epa.gov>; McLerran, Dennis <mclerran.dennis@epa.gov>; Edmondson, Lucy <Edmondson.Lucy@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Capital Press article

Sigh...I'm rusty at this "spokesman" stuff...I tried to actually explain something, with context...alas, the reporter excised the context and quoted me saying this: "Congress didn't want EPA to micromanage everything people say and do with federal funds,"

In response to his question as to whether we approved of the content of the website, I'd said something very close to this:

"The simple question is whether the content in question is legal, and our attorneys reviewed the website and determined its content did not violate the probation against lobbying. Now, whether

we think some content is smart or unproductive or antagonistic is ultimately irrelevant because Congress's intent is for the EPA and other agencies to disperse grant funds through approved organizations *that meet established criteria*. We're further removed from the equation when those grantees, like the Fisheries Commission award sub grants from our initial money. There is often a small but important public education and outreach component of these grants, and this website was a small part of a large habitat and water quality improvement grant. Congress has not wanted the EPA, or any federal agency for that matter, to micromanage the content of grant recipients or sub-award recipients unless of course the content is deemed illegal. In this case our attorneys determined the content did not violate the prohibition against lobbying."

Sound bites, Bill, soundbites...

<http://www.capitalpress.com/Washington/20160324/federally-funded-website-hits-at-washington-farmers>

Bill Dunbar

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